

From the Desk of Hon. Maurice McTigue

MERCATUS CENTER
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Louisiana Streamlining Commission

**Suggested Recommendations to Advisory
Committee Chairmen**

Preamble:

The following comments on this cover sheet have been prepared at the Mercatus Center by Hon. Maurice McTigue. The purpose of the analysis was to identify issues that the committee might pursue and finally develop into recommendations to the full commission.

- The suggested recommendations are based on very limited information and the committee's local knowledge may determine that the suggestions are not viable. In that case the Committee should discard the suggested recommendation.
- If the Committee thinks the suggestion has merit then they should refer it to officials for their analysis.
- Some of our suggestions may be recommending a practice that is already in place, in which case the recommendation may be put aside or may be worded to endorse that practice or to extend it further than is the current practice.

Department of Environmental Quality:

Recommendations on this agency may change depending upon other recommendations regarding reorganization of departments and the creation of a Department of Conservation.

- The core business of this department is comprehensive environmental protection and related protection of public health and safety.
- The outcome for the Criminal Investigation Division is achieving compliance with the law. The measures for this division should show whether the incidence of crime is going up or down.
- Business & Community Outreach activities should be measured in terms of tangible improvement in environmental outcomes.
- Office of Compliance Surveillance/Enforcement: There is no indication of any prioritization of these efforts- while there is a significant amount of money involved (\$16 million)
- Emergency & Radiological Services appears to belong with occupational safety and health at the Workforce Commission.
- Air, Water, Hazardous Waste, Solid Waste Permits: The permitting process appears to take a long time (300 processing days) involving major delays for potential investors. The cost per permit issued figure would be of value for all of these programs.
- Water, Air, Quality Analysis: This activity could be contracted out - maybe to a university or other skilled operator with analytical equipment and competent staff.

Any laboratory owned by the department should be part of the study of state owned laboratories and the efficiency of their utilization.

- Underground Storage tank inspection could be contracted out.

Savings: Total Budget \$105 million, Total appropriated \$156 million:

- There seems to be a discrepancy between the amount disclosed and the amount appropriated in either FY 08 \$129 million or FY 09 \$156 million. Some of this might be pass through money?
- It is difficult to find savings except for the contracting out of some activities and rationalization of laboratory facilities, if they exist.
- Office of Management and Finance has a budget of about \$30 million, which seems very high out of an operating total budget of \$105 million. 30% of income being expended in main office seems high and should provide savings.
- Where permits issued are for a business this should be treated as a cost of doing business and fully recovered.
- Where the permit is for a territorial authority, they also should be subjected to full cost recovery.
- Business inspections should also be full cost recovery.
- Permits and Inspections savings could be in the order of \$17.1 million